



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

**DAVE HANSEN**

SENATOR – 30TH DISTRICT

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Senate Bill 520  
Health Insurance for Families of Fire Fighters  
**Committee on Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property  
Tax Relief, and Revenue**  
Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Thank you Mister Chairman and members of the committee. I am here today to testify in favor of Senate Bill 520. In 2006, Green Bay lost Lt. Arnie Wolff, a 17- year veteran of the Green Bay Fire Department who was killed in the line of duty while battling a house fire. Lt. Wolff left behind a wife and three children. Unfortunately, Lt. Wolff's spouse is unable to continue the insurance because of her husband's death.

This bill is about honoring our public servants. Passage of Senate Bill 520 will send a strong message to our firefighters that their family will be protected in the event tragedy strikes while they are protecting our families.

Thank you again Mister Chairman and members of the committee. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

**Committees**

Joint Committee on Finance, Senate Vice Chair  
Education  
Transportation, Tourism, Forestry and Natural Resources  
Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations  
Senate Organization  
Joint Committee on Legislative Organization

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**FIREFIGHTER INSURANCE TESTIMONY  
SB-520**

**On behalf of The Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin  
Senate committee on Senate Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief, and Revenue  
March 16, 2010**

Thank you, Sen. Erpenbach and committee members for holding a hearing on SB-520.

I am Steve Wilding. I am here representing the PFFW. I am a member of the PFFW Executive Board and am a fire fighter from Oak Creek where I have worked for 21 years.

The PFFW represents full time fire fighters in over 60 WI communities.

The PFFW also wants to thank Sen. Dave Hansen and Rep. Ann Hraychuck for authoring SB-520.

This bill is simple but an important piece of legislation. It does not provide any direct benefits to fire fighters but it would give us a sense of security knowing that if something tragic happened to us our surviving spouse and children will be partially taken care of.

One of the important benefits that we as fire fighters have fought for over the years is adequate health care benefits for ourselves and our families. We have often limited our pay increases to garner this important benefit.

This bill will make sure the surviving spouse and children will be able to continue their health care benefits in the rare case a fire fighter is killed in the line of duty

As it states, a line of duty death refers to a fire fighter who was killed while fighting a fire or providing some type of rescue service in the community they serve. That fire fighter has undisputedly devoted their life to protecting the citizens and property of their community.

Thus, we think it is only reasonable to ask that the community we protect provide some type of care to the surviving spouse and children of a fire fighter who gives their life for their community. We do not think that is too much to ask.

Fortunately, it is rare for a Wisconsin fire fighter to be killed in the line of duty, but as we remember with Green Bay fire fighter Arnie Wolff, that tragedy does happen.

When it does, we believe that the surviving spouse (generally a wife) and children should be able to receive a benefit that they would have received had her husband and their father not been killed protecting their community.

Your support for SB-520 will be greatly appreciated by our members and especially by our families.

Thank you